

A decade ago, Belle played an instrumental part in developing the Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus, of which I am a Co-Chairman. This year the Caucus celebrates its tenth anniversary. Without the extraordinary efforts of Belle Cummins ten years ago and throughout the past decade, the Caucus would not have achieved the tremendous level of success that it garners today. With Belle's great assistance the bipartisan Caucus has grown to almost one hundred Members. The goals of the Caucus coincide with those Belle championed herself increasing funding for the National Institutes of Health and developing new and improved methods in biomedical research. Tragically, before science could repay with a cure its debt to her for her fantastic efforts in the field of biomedical research, Belle succumbed to cancer only one month after her diagnosis.

Belle had an upbeat attitude and positive outlook that could not be diminished. Belle was well-loved and well-respected by Members and staff alike on both sides of the aisle. Belle's reputation preceded her, as she was often able to gain meetings with Members of the House or Senate when others could not. Perhaps no greater testimony to the impact Belle Cummins had on all of those who were privileged to know her could be found at a memorial held in her honor by family and friends in the Rayburn building last June. Countless friends and family attended to remember Belle, and many Members of Congress, staff, friends, and relatives shared their memories of her as a driven and determined, yet kind, generous, and positive individual.

Words cannot adequately express my extreme gratitude to Belle not only for her enormous efforts on legislative interests we shared, but for her friendship that spanned more than a decade. With Belle's passing, all of Congress suffers a great loss. My dear friend Belle Cummins is, and will be, greatly missed.

#### SUPPORTING SERBIAN PEOPLE

##### HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 6, 2000*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Serbian people. The Serbian people won a great victory yesterday in the streets of Belgrade. They vindicated their choice for democracy and freedom that they exercised in the presidential elections of September 24. I congratulate the democratically elected President Vojislav Kustinca and the brave people of Yugoslavia who refused to allow their victory to be stolen from them.

It is now time for the West to welcome Yugoslavia into the family of free nations and to assist its new President to rebuild the country from the ravages of war.

#### TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

##### HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 6, 2000*

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I extend congratulations to the 23 million people of Tai-

wan and their democratically elected government, led by President Chen Shui-bian and Vice-President Annette Lu, on the occasion of Taiwan's forthcoming National Day.

Taiwan has become a beacon of democracy in the Asia-Pacific region, despite the threat of military force by Communist China. I have seen tremendous positive changes in Taiwan, from my first visit in 1967, when the island republic was under virtual martial law. Within the past three decades, as basic freedoms and civil liberties have become ingrained, Taiwan has evolved into a powerful economic engine for the entire region. Today the people of Taiwan are enjoying unprecedented prosperity and deserve international respect and admiration.

I have strongly supported Congressional resolutions advocating that Taiwan be permitted as an independent entity into international organizations, such as the World Health Organization and the World Trade Organization even before Communist China is admitted.

The government of communist China should never forget the importance of the freedom of Taiwan to the people of the United States. I wish even greater social and economic success for Taiwan in the coming years.

#### THE SOUTHEAST EUROPE TRADE PREFERENCE ACT

##### HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 6, 2000*

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today I've introduced the Southeast Europe Trade Preference Act (SETPA), a modest yet important bill that was originally introduced in the Senate by the Senior Senator from New York. This bill is designed to promote meaningful economic development and stability in Southeast Europe through additional trade benefits targeted to certain countries in Southeast Europe.

The bill, modeled on the recently passed Caribbean Basin Initiative, with some key changes. The bill authorizes the President to proclaim duty-free treatment for all eligible articles from the following countries, subject to specified conditions: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Slovenia, Kosovo, and Montenegro.

Mr. Speaker, this is a timely piece of legislation, especially when considering the changes occurring right now in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY). As you know, following the recent elections and yesterday's uprising in Belgrade, Vojislav Kostunica is the president-elect of Yugoslavia and international war criminal Slobodan Milosevic has apparently been ousted. This is terrific news for the region, and the world.

The SETPA would extend duty-free treatment to products that are currently not eligible under the GSP program, including certain iron and steel products, certain agricultural products, footwear, glassware, ceramics, automobiles, bicycles, clocks and watches. The only product that would not receive additional coverage is textiles, in order to protect that fragile industry here in the United States.

It is important to note that the bill contains common sense protections for U.S. industries

such as a provision that prohibits the President from designating any country a beneficiary country of the bill if that country has seized ownership of any property owned by a U.S. citizen or corporation, or has taken steps to do so.

That important provision can be waived if the President reports to Congress that compensation has been or is being made to the owner, or good-faith negotiations to provide such compensation are in progress. If the country is otherwise taking steps to discharge its obligations under international law; or a dispute over compensation for such a seizure has been submitted to arbitration under the Convention for the Settlement of Investment Disputes, the provision may also be waived.

Other grounds which could disqualify a country for designation as a beneficiary include a failure to recognize or enforce arbitral awards in favor of U.S. owners, the preferential treatment to the products of a developed country other than the United States, with significant adverse effect on U.S. commerce, the broadcast of copyrighted material belonging to U.S. copyright owners by a government-owned entity without the owners' express consent, or the absence of a treaty or other agreement regarding the extradition of U.S. citizens. Failure to take steps to afford workers in the country certain internationally recognized worker rights will also disqualify a country, as does membership in the European Union.

The President is, of course, able to waive these prohibitions should he report reasons for doing so to Congress, except in the case of membership in the European Union.

Importantly, the bill sets specific conditions for the beneficiary designation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY). With the sweeping changes now occurring in that nation, we want to be certain that the Administration is free to act accordingly should the FRY take the steps necessary for beneficiary designation.

A number of reports are necessary, and thus would be required after passage of the SETPA, to be sure that the bill does no harm to the United States. Section 8 of the bill requires the U.S. International Trade Commission to report to Congress and the President on the economic impact of this Act on U.S. industries and consumers, and Section 9 directs the Secretary of Labor to review, analyze, and report to Congress on this Act's impact on U.S. labor, as well as developments in labor conditions in the beneficiary countries.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say that this bill is good for the people of Southeast Europe, and good for the people of the United States. It will promote economic and political security in this important area of the world following the recent devastating conflicts of the area, and will enhance the economic and national security interests of the United States in Europe. I know that it's late in the session—really too late to consider the bill this year—but I would hope that we can take this bill up at the earliest possible opportunity in the 107th Congress.